

REMARKS

In the office action, the disclosure was object to because of informalities. Claims 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Uchida et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,589,672. Claims 5, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto, U.S. Patent No. 6,703,575.

In this response, claims 5, 6, 7, and 9 have been amended. Claims 5-9 continue to be pending.

Objections to the Specification

The disclosure was object to because of informalities. Applicants have amended paragraph [0015] to correct the typographical error and hereby thank the Examiner for pointing out the error.

Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b):

Claims 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Uchida et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,589,672. Claims 5, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto, U.S. Patent No. 6,703,575.

Uchida et al. describes a circuit breaker with an arc quenching device in the form of a plurality of grids 2 mounted to an insulation partition 22. See Fig. 14.

Yamamoto describes an arc extinguishing system for a contact switching apparatus that includes a plurality of arc extinguishing grid plates 7.

In the present application, independent claim 5 has been amended to more clearly recite the subject matter of the invention without thereby narrowing the scope. In addition, claims 6 and 7 were amended to specify additional characteristics of the guide and retaining elements without positively reciting one or the other type of arc quenching device. As described in the specification, the switching device of the present invention is provided to allow for alternative types of arc quenching devices to be incorporated depending, for example, on the current range being served by the switching device. Independent claim 9 was also amended to more clearly specify that the arc quenching device located in each interrupting chamber is either an insertable cooling plate or an arc

splitter stack but not both. The changes to claim 9 were made to clarify the meaning of claim without narrowing its scope.

As amended, claim 5 recites an electrical switching device that includes, among other features: an arc quenching device disposed in each interrupting chamber of the housing and guide and retaining elements configured to retain the arc quenching device, wherein the arc quenching device is, alternatively, one of an arc splitter stack and a cooling plate. Similarly, independent claim 9 recites an electrical switching device that specifies that the arc quenching device located in each interrupting chamber is either an insertable cooling plate or an arc splitter stack but not both and at the same time having guide and retaining elements configured for both types of arc quenching devices.

As described in the Applicants' specification, the invention provides a switching device suitable for switching operation in different current ranges in a simple manner. See, for example, paragraphs [0005] through [0007].

Applicants respectfully submit that both Uchida et al. nor Yamamoto fail to describe any feature configured to retain, alternatively, one of two types of interchangeable arc quenching devices. Nor does either device describe one or the other (but not both) of the two types of arc quenching devices located in each interrupting chamber while also having two sets of guide and retaining elements for both types of arc quenching devices.

With respect to Uchida et al., the Examiner has deemed the plurality of grids 2 to correspond to the arc splitter stack of claim 5 and the insulation partition 22 to correspond to the cooling plate. However, even if partition could be deemed a cooling plate, there is no suggestion in Uchida et al. for any element to alternatively retain one or the other of the two types of arc quenching devices with the two types being interchangeable with each other. Instead, Uchida describes a chamber having both grids 2 and partition 22.

With respect to Yamamoto, the Examiner has deemed one of the plurality of arc extinguishing grid plates 7 to correspond to the cooling plate of claim 5 with the rest of the plates 7 corresponding to the arc splitter stack. Again, Applicants submit that Yamamoto does not teach the interchangeability of these two different types of arc quenching devices nor any element for

retaining, alternatively, one or the other of the two types. Instead, according to the Examiner's analysis, both types of devices occupy the interrupting chamber.

Withdrawal of the respective rejections of claims 5, 8, 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by one or both of Uchida et al. and Yamamoto is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's determination that claim 7 relates to allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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